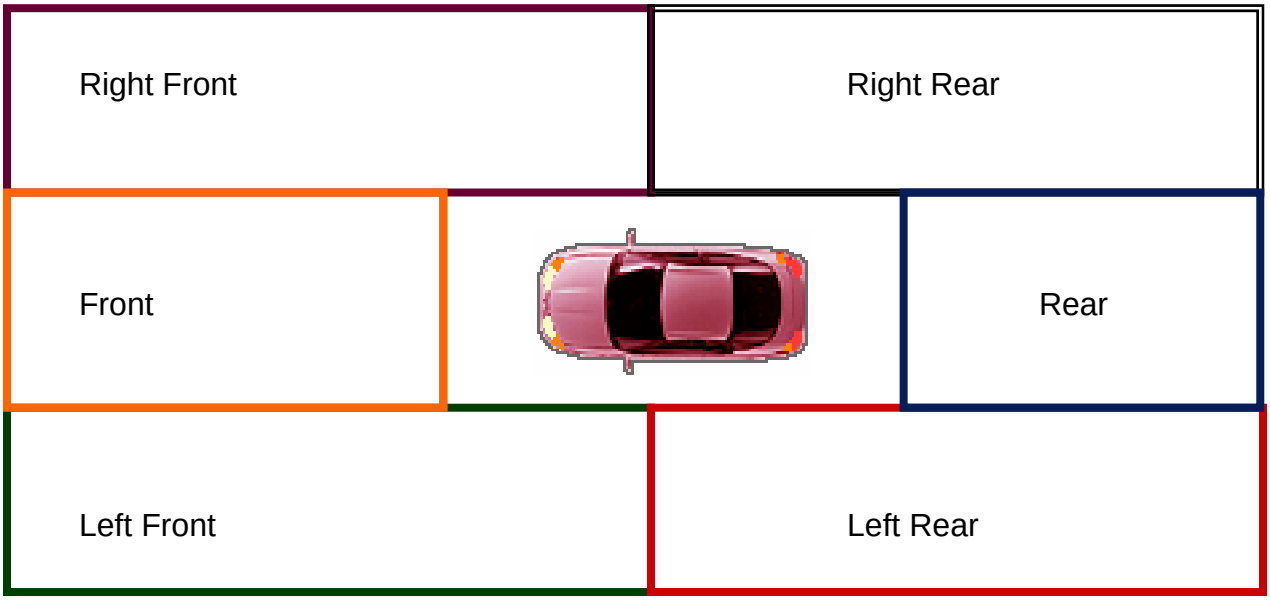
FACT SHEET

Module 6 Using Zone Control to Manage Space

There are six areas around the vehicle which must be managed to reduce risk of collision.



The path of travel (POT) and the line of sight (LOS) are critical elements for vision control.

Risk reduction principles are based on gaining appropriate information. All systems have a specified method for **gaining information**. The risk must then be evaluated on principles of probability and consequence. All the current systems have an element of **decision-making** based on probability and consequence.

Risk is then reduced by allowing more space to develop between the risk and the vehicle being driven. This can be accomplished by:

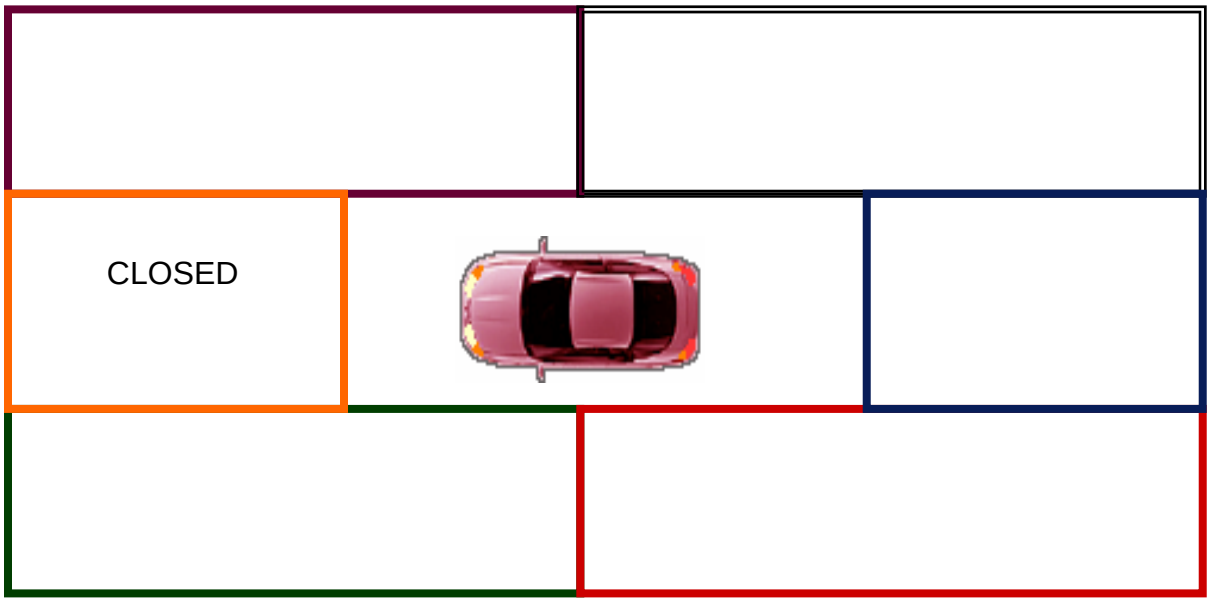
- adjusting speed,
- changing position, and
- communicating the intention to adjust.

All the current space management systems have an **element of action**. The system is designed to provide a foundation for using a space management system. The goal is to make the system easy for the instructor and student to use and learn.

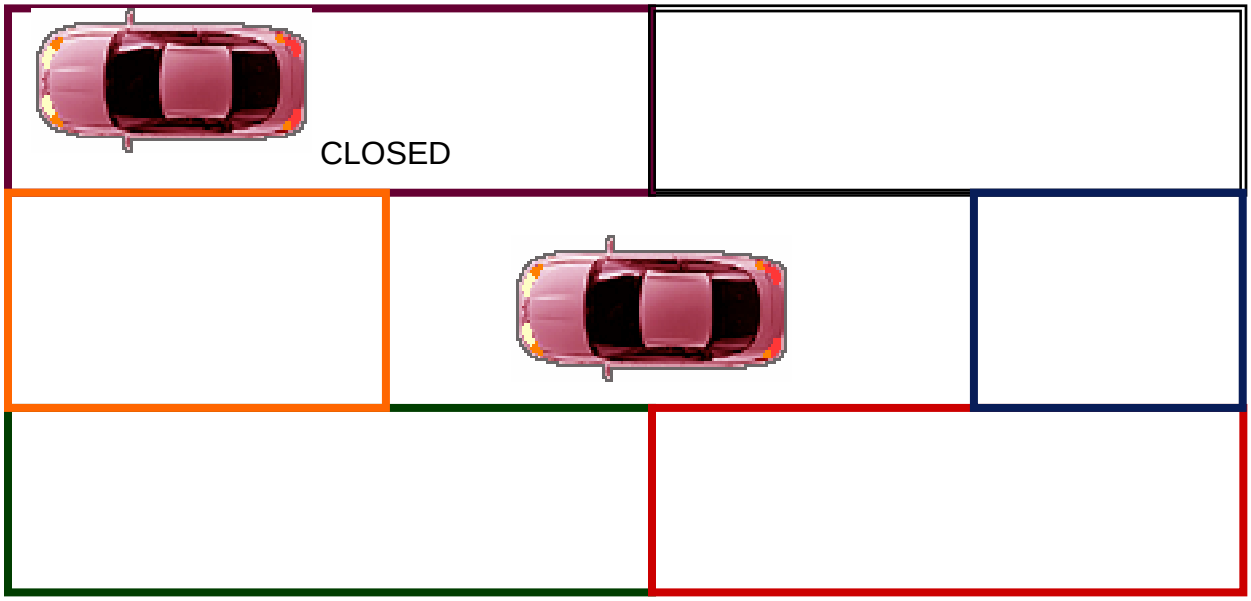
To search effectively, drivers need to know what to look for, where to look, and how to evaluate if a potential problem could be a good or poor situation. The structure of the space management system can give a rapid response to a number of variables. There are many ways a driver can be involved in a crash. Many crashes result from a change in the driver's ability to control the target area, sightline, or travel path before driving into a poor situation.

Examples of Changes:

- A red traffic light is a closed front travel path.
- A hillcrest is a closed front sightline.



- A parked car to the right is a closed right front sightline and travel path.
- A bicyclist to the right is a closed front right travel path.



- An oncoming car or truck is a closed left front travel path.
- A car traveling in the left mirror blind space area is a closed left rear travel path.
- A motorcycle in the right mirror blind space area is a closed right rear travel path.
- A truck following closely is a closed rear sightline and travel path.

After searching and seeing a changing or closed space area, evaluate the conditions of the opposite space areas before making a decision. After evaluating the related space areas, act in selecting the best speed, lane position, and communication tool.

New conditions are always presenting themselves when driving. A driver must constantly question the present conditions. What speed selection feels most comfortable for each situation? What is the legal speed limit? What should the lane or lane position be? What is a good speed selection for this situation? What would be a high risk or poor speed selection, with little to gain? Each situation has different and changing conditions.

These are some of the processing evaluations that a driver would make for any driving situation.

- The speed and lane position selected are usually based upon what the legal limitations are, what the destination is, and what is comfortable for the driver.

- Whatever the choices for speed and position, the space management system recommends looking for how the group of ongoing conditions could cause less control over **line of sight,** and/or **targeting area,** and/or **path of travel.** In other words, watch for changes in the space areas around your vehicle.

By watching for slight changes, making minor adjustments for best speed control and lane position, and using effective communication—a driver will very seldom be surprised by the actions of others that would require a critical high stress or evasive response.